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Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79T00429A000100060007-6

18 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Cline

SUBJECT : Meeting on 16 October in Re the Acquisition and Handling of Sensitive and/or Urgent Cables and Memoranda from the Department of State

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1. At a meeting held in your office on 16 October with [REDACTED] (DD/I Executive Staff), Hitchcock (Collection Guidance Staff), [REDACTED] (Cable Secretariat), and me (OCI/SIDO/CIA Watch), you directed that a record be made of the discussions and that positive recommendations be made to you for action. You noted that the meeting had been called to discuss (a) problems in getting to the Director on a timely basis State Department restricted-dissemination material, (b) the handling within CIA of limited-dissemination State cables, and (c) questions in connection with the foregoing which arose in a conversation you had with Mr. McKesson of State.

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2. The general subjects covered at the meeting in your office were:

a. electrical transmission of cables from State to CIA;

b. delivery, routing, and dissemination of State Limited Distribution S/S and Eyes Only cables;

^{CIA} c. the receipt, routing, and dissemination within of State memoranda of conversation;

d. delivery to State of Ambassadorial cables sent to Washington via CIA channels; and

e. assignment of a DDI/CGS/OCI officer to duty in State for liaison with the Secretariat and the Operations Center.

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3. The discussion on each of the above is contained in a separate annex to this memorandum, and the recommendations called for are included in these annexes. [REDACTED]

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is not available for coordination today, but those recommendations which involve the Cable Secretariat were discussed with him immediately after the meeting in your office. [REDACTED] and Mr. Hitchcock concurred in this memorandum and annexes in draft form.

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[REDACTED]
OCI/SIDO/CIA Watch

Attachments: a/s

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ANNEX A

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CABLE DELIVERIES BETWEEN STATE AND CIA

Mr. Cline noted that in his discussion with McKesson questions had come up as to why we and State do not make more use of electrical transmission of cables between the respective buildings, why it is that couriers are used so often when a rush delivery is required.

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██████████ pointed out that when a great quantity of material is involved, the courier is faster simply because of the time it takes to prepare for transmission and to transmit cables. Moreover, the circuits can handle only so much traffic. Most of the cables we receive from State are received in hard copies; these are easier to handle in the dissemination process here, and most of them are of a less-than-urgent nature. The cable deliveries are made by CIA couriers, who make frequent trips (about 1.5 to 2 hours apart) to State. Some State cables are received by wire and receive rapid handling; depending on traffic loads and priorities assigned to such cables, it can at times happen that the courier-delivered hard copy will be available to users here about as soon as the wire version is.

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██████████ added the point that the wide physical separation of the SISO/Watch and the Cable Secretariat, existing procedures in the Signal Center, and the lack of tube system in the building in other than normal duty hours can result in significant time being lost even after a cable has been received within this building. The idea of a tube system which would operate around the clock between the Cable Secretariat and the SISO/Watch is under consideration; but this will not solve the whole problem.

Mr. Hitchcock noted that CYFAX equipment now under development and consideration will--provided it proves satisfactory and indeed is procured both by us and the other Agencies--pretty much solve our problem.

Mr. Cline said that something needed to be done now, not a year from now, and he asked that a list be drawn up of specific types of cables which could or

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should be transmitted by wire to CIA; he noted that State, in selecting what items should be transmitted by wire, seemed willing to follow guidelines we would set.

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In the ensuing discussion [redacted] noted that the White House receives cables of certain priorities automatically from State, as well as certain other selected cables, and that if we could get the same treatment, most of the cables we need in a hurry would be sent to us promptly and automatically.

(Additional Notes: There have been a number of discussions between representatives of OCI, Signal Center, and Cable Secretariat on the problem of rapid transmittal within this building of incoming traffic to the SISO/Watch. The fact of the matter is that in this new building we (OCI/SISO/Watch) do not get as good service as we did in the old "Q" Building when we had a communications center adjacent to the Watch Office. As for the proposed 24-hour tube system mentioned above, [redacted] of OCI has prepared a study and proposals on this, and these are now being coordinated with other offices concerned. The tube firm, which has been queried re feasibility and specifications, indicates the price will be not in excess of \$25,000 for the system. Even if this is promised, however, it will solve only part of our problem. We have yet to find a way--there are both space and personnel problems--to bring the Signal Center's service to OCI back to the level it was in the old "Q" Building. -- TCL)

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the DD/I negotiate with State for the simultaneous transmittal to us by electrical means of all cables transmitted electrically to the White House.

(On an FYI only base I am informed that State now transmits automatically to the White House all cables of FLASH precedence and above, as well as other selected cables ((e.g., during the Berlin

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crisis, all cables on Berlin)), and furthermore that State has been asked to determine the quantity that would be involved if the White House asked for automatic transmission of all cables of IMMEDIATE precedence and above. -- TCL)

2. That the DD/I also asked State to transmit electrically all Eyes Only cables coming to CIA (but with exceptions permitted here if the cables are unusually long, say over two or three pages, and a courier would be faster), as well as all cables which pertain to a "crisis" situation.

(Re this last point, during the recent Berlin "crisis," State was transmitting Berlin cables automatically to the White House. It also transmitted cables to JCS--but not always to us. Had it not been for frequent telephone calls, our Agency would have been even further behind developments than it was. A specific case: Berlin cable 496 was received in State, and retransmitted at 161333Z to JCS; JCS then transmitted it to us and the White House ((which presumably had already had it from State)) at 161530Z--that is, over two hours later. I do not have an actual time of receipt in the SIBO/Watch, but we can safely assume that the receipt there was 15 to 20 minutes after receipt in this building. -- TCL)

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ANNEX B

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STATE RESTRICTED-DISSEMINATION CABLES

The discussion brought out no problems in the handling and routing within CIA of State Limited Distribution S/S cables.

Re State Eyes Only cables, Mr. Cline pointed out that these really fall into various categories--e.g., those which are "ordinary" Eyes Only cables (i.e., those which State addresses to Mr. McCone knowing that they are shown to other Agency personnel) and those which are in fact intended for Mr. McCone only (or possibly Mr. McCone and several others--Mr. Cline, and possibly a very few more). He referred specifically to the recent BAH series, and observed that realistically we must expect other ad hoc arrangements from time to time.

In the ensuing discussion--which included a review of the cumbersome and ineffective method in which cables on the South Vietnam situation were being handled for a while--the consensus seemed to be that there is no basic problem among the offices which were represented at the meeting and that (provided higher offices do not interrupt the system) the only thing really needed was to agree on a way that the State Secretariat could indicate the different types of handling it wanted cables to have.

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██████████ urged, and ██████████ and others agreed, that it would be highly desirable to have all cables go through the Cable Secretariat, even though it might be necessary for some of these cables to go through in unopened envelopes, so that there would be at least a record at one single point of all cables received in the Agency.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That State be asked, in recognition of the fact that Eyes Only cables fall into different categories, to mark the covering envelopes accordingly.

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a. "Ordinary" Eyes Only cables would be addressed simply "Eyes Only for Mr. McCone" or some equivalent.

b. The envelopes containing the "exclusive" Eyes Only cables would be addressed or stamped "TO BE OPENED ONLY BY MR. MCCONE."

(1) Since these envelopes will not be opened either in the Cable Secretariat or the SISO/Watch, State should be asked also to stamp or type "IMMEDIATE DELIVERY" on all such cable envelopes which in State's judgment should be delivered immediately regardless of the hour of the day.

2. That State further be asked to indicate on the outside of the envelopes addressed TO BE OPENED ONLY BY MR. MCCONE the contents of the envelope--e.g., "US Rab Saigon Cable 999, 16 Oct 63." (State can be told that this is for record purposes in our Cable Secretariat log.)

3. That all Eyes Only cables be routed through the Cable Secretariat, including those which go through the Cable Secretariat in unopened envelopes, and that the Cable Secretariat keep a complete record, by number at least, of all such cables addressed to the Director.

4. That the Cable Secretariat

a. reproduce and disseminate as at present the "ordinary" Eyes Only cables;

b. be the responsible agent for delivery to the O/DCI of all State envelopes addressed or stamped "TO BE OPENED ONLY BY MR. MCCONE"; the delivery is to be prompt, except that when the O/DCI is closed the envelopes will be held in Cable Secretariat until the next opening of business, unless the envelopes are also stamped "IMMEDIATE DELIVERY";

c. in the case of envelopes received when the stamped or addressed "TO BE OPENED ONLY BY MR. MCCONE. IMMEDIATE DELIVERY" received when the O/DCI is closed, the Cable Secretariat will send the envelope to the SISO/Watch, which will then be responsible for effecting prompt delivery whatever the hour.

(Note: The O/DCI will have to provide the answer to next questions: when the DCI

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is not available to receive an "IMMEDIATE DELIVERY" cable, to whom should the cable be delivered? Furthermore, I understand that the G/Executive Director has raised some question with the Cable Secretariat on the delivery of cables and/or memoranda addressed to the Director by name or by title, i.e., whether such should be routed through the Executive Registry. [REDACTED] is in the process of trying to clarify this matter with the G/Executive Director now.--
(TCL)

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5. That the DCI and/or others who may be recipients of cables addressed or stamped "TO BE OPENED ONLY BY MR. MCCONE" be asked to consider in each case the possibility of further dissemination of these cables within the Agency as an "Ordinary" Eyes Only cables through the Cable Secretariat facilities.

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ANNEX C

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STATE MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATIONS

Mr. Cline discussed his interest in seeing to it that important State memoranda of conversations receive expeditious handling and that copies be provided promptly to interested parties.

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[REDACTED] commented on the present system, whereby such memoranda released in single copies from State are normally routed by Cable Secretariat to, in turn, SISO, DCI, DDCI, DDI, DDP, Chief(s) of Operating Division(s). The SISO/Watch, when such are received, treats each as other incoming material and considers whether it is worth making a SISO/Watch "Select" before routing the document onward. At the very least, copies are made for the OCI Areas of principle interest before the original is sent onward.

Certain memoranda which fall into the "Eyes Only" category, by the other hand, are being reproduced and disseminated by the Cable Secretariat as though they were Eyes Only cables.

Much of the discussion on 16 October showed again that most of the delay in the delivery of State memoranda of conversations to CIA high-level consumers lies not in the CIA building, but in the State Department, which frequently puts out these memoranda on a somewhat leisurely basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That there be no basic change in the present system, except that the Cable Secretariat and SISO make the cut a little deeper on what memoranda might be reproduced and disseminated in multiple copies, and that OCI/SISO cooperate with Cable Secretariat by providing if possible assistance in the reproduction and collation of lengthy memoranda of conversations which are to be disseminated in multiple copies.

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ANNEX E

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ASSIGNMENT OF DDI/CGS/OCI OFFICER TO STATE

25X1A Mr. Cline noted, in connection with our frequent delays in getting memoranda of conversations from State, that Messrs. Reed and McKesson of the State Secretariat know of these memoranda in advance, and that we must devise some means of getting these and other important information more quickly than we presently do. He noted that the DCI had even gone so far--evidently in hyperbole--to suggest that if necessary we have somebody at the Secretary's door twenty-four hours a day. Mr. Cline did not see a need at present for the assignment of someone around the clock each day at State, but he did instruct Mr. Hitchcock and [REDACTED] to get together and assign someone to State.

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25X1A This question has not yet been resolved. [REDACTED]
25X1A [REDACTED] on his part has discussed the matter with the Acting AD/CI, [REDACTED] who in turn has discussed the matter with Mr. Cline. Mr. Hitchcock has also discussed it with Mr. Cline, who has agreed in principle that the man assigned must have the full confidence of persons in the Secretary's office and at other key policy positions if the return from such an assignment is to be what is sought.